

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00031 01 OF 02 071717Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 STR-01 L-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 AID-05 SAM-01 /083 W

----- 082088

P R 071242Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6170

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GABORONE 0031/1

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, SF, BC, ZA

SUBJ: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S VISIT TO BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE 0023

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY: DURING FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S BRIEF VISIT TO BOTSWANA, PRESIDENT KHAMA URGED BRITISH TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN FINDING SOLUTION TO RHODESIAN PROBLEM. CALLAGHAN RECOGNIZED BRITISH CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BRITISH HONOR WAS INVOLVED. CALLAGHAN SOUGHT AND OBTAINED A REAFFIRMATION OF BOTSWANA'S OPPOSITION TO A VIOLENT SOLUTION AND PRESIDENT KHAMA'S ENDORSEMENT FOR CALLAGHAN-VORSTER PORT ELIZABETH MEETING. BRITISH DOUBT WHETHER SMITH PREPARED TO ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE AND SEE NO POINT IN CALLING CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE UNTIL POSITION OF RHODESIANS HAS BEEN CLARIFIED. RHODESIAN OPPO-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 00031 01 OF 02 071717Z

SITION PARTY LEADER GIBBS TOLD CALLAGHAN DURING MEETING IN GAB-

ORONE THAT HIS PARTY AND TRIBAL CHIEFS SHOULD ALSO BE REPRESENTED AT CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS. BRITISH AND BOTSWANA SEEM FLEXIBLE ON VENUE FOR TALKS. IN ECONOMIC AREA MINISTER STATE MOGWE BORE DOWN HARD ON EC BEEF IMPORT BAN AND CALLAGHAN UNDERTOOK TO SEEK EXEMPTION FOR BOTSWANA AT NEXT EC COUNCIL MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON UK HIGH COMMISSIONER ELEANOR EMERY JANUARY 6 FOR BRIEFING ON BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S VISIT TO BOTSWANA JANUARY 3-4. DURING LESS THAN 24-HOUR VISIT, CALLAGHAN MET WITH PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARCHIBALD MOGWE, AND RHODESIAN OPPOSITION PARTY LEADER TIMOTHY GIBBS. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF EMERY'S BRIEFING:

A) PURPOSE OF VISIT - HIGH COMMISSIONER EMERY TOLD ME THAT ESSENTIAL PURPOSE CALLAGHAN'S VISIT WAS TO "DISCOVER THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT ANC NATIONALIST AND SMITH REGIME WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AS A SOLUTION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE IN RHODESIA." SHE NOTED THAT THE AFRICANS HAD BEEN FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A SOLUTION IN RHODESIA; THEY SEEM TO FEEL THAT SMITH HAS ACCEPTED THE "PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE IN HIS OWN MIND." EMERY SAID THE BRITISH ARE DOUBTFUL; THEY SEE NO POINT IN CALLING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE UNTIL IT IS CLEAR WHAT THE TWO SIDES ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT.

B) CALLAGHAN COMMENDS PRESIDENT KHAMA - EMERY SAID THAT CALLAGHAN PRAISED THE ROLE OF PRESIDENT KHAMA IN PROMOTING DETENTE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CALLAGHAN SAID BOTSWANA HAD MADE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIALOGUE BETWEEN "THE WHITE SOUTH" AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES TO THE NORTH. CALLAGHAN ALSO STATED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN GABORONE THAT BOTSWANA HAD BECOME A BRIDGE OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE WHITE SOUTH AND THE BLACK NORTH WITH THE HELP OF PRESIDENT KHAMA'S STATESMANSHIP. CALLAGHAN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD CONTINUE IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

C) BOTSWANA URGES MORE INVOLVEMENT BY BRITISH - EMERY TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT KHAMA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT RHODESIA AND URGED THE BRITISH TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE. CALLAGHAN TOOK THE POSITION IN HIS DISCUSSIONS HERE THAT THE UK RECOGNIZED ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY; IT ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT BRITISH HONOR WAS AT STAKE. (APART FROM THESE TWO CONSIDERATIONS, EMERY SAID THE BRITISH HAD NO DIRECT INTEREST IN RHODESIA.) CALLAGHAN TOLD PRESIDENT KHAMA CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 00031 01 OF 02 071717Z

THAT THE BRITISH WERE PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL BY USING THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO BRING THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER. REGARDING A VENUE FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, EMERY SAID THE BRITISH WERE FLEXIBLE AND THAT BOTSWANA WAS ALSO PREPARED TO SUPPORT ANY PLACE THAT WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE. IN THIS REGARD, BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS OF JANUARY 7 CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY WHICH QUOTES MINISTER OF STATE MOGWE AS SAYING THAT BOTSWANA WOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER GABORONE AS THE VENUE OF RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00031 02 OF 02 071729Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 STR-01 L-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 AID-05 SAM-01 /083 W
----- 082172

P R 071242Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6171

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 2 GABORONE 0031/2

D) TERRORIST ACTIVITY - EMERY NOTED THAT CALLAGHAN WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUED TERRORIST ACTIVITY AND RAISED THE MATTER WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA, WHO DISAVOWED VIOLENCE. EMERY CALLED MY ATTENTION TO CALLAGHAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN GABORONE IN WHICH HE STATED "THE CAUSE OF A SETTLEMENT WILL BE BEST SERVED IF ALL INVOLVED LIVE UP TO THEIR UNDERTAKINGS AND THIS INCLUDED CESSATION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES." CALLAGHAN ADDED THAT THE SETTLEMENT WOULD ALSO BE BEST SERVED BY LETTING THOSE WHO WISH TO MEET AND TAKE PART IN CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS DO SO. EMERY TOLD ME THIS WAS A DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE REFUSAL OF SMITH OVER THE WEEK-END TO ALLOW THE ANC NATIONALISTS TO GO TO LUSAKA FOR A MEETING WITH CALLAGHAN.

E) VORSTER MEETING - EMERY SAID CALLAGHAN WAS VERY INTERESTED IN GETTING A PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT FROM BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA FOR A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER. ACCORDING TO EMERY, CALLAGHAN'S DECISION TO GO TO PORT ELIZABETH FOR A MEETING WITH VORSTER HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH SMITH'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE ANC

NATIONALISTS TO TRAVEL TO LUSAKA FOR A MEETING WITH CALLAGHAN.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 00031 02 OF 02 071729Z

EMERY ASSERTED THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD WRITTEN CALLAGHAN IN LONDON SOME TIME AGO URGING THAT HE MEET WITH VORSTER DURING HIS SOUTHERN AFRICAN TOUR. SHE SAID THAT CALLAGHAN HAD NOT COMMITTED HIMSELF BECAUSE HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM PRESIDENTS KAUNDA AND KHAMA FOR A MEETING WITH VORSTER. CALLAGHAN REGARDED SUCH ENDORSEMENT AS IMPORTANT TO UNDERCUT ANY POSSIBLE OAU OR BRITISH LEFT WING CRITICISM.

EMERY SAID SHE HAD ONLY A VERY BRIEF REPORT ON CALLAGHAN'S MEETING WITH VORSTER. ACCORDING TO EMERY, VORSTER MADE THREE ESSENTIAL POINTS TO CALLAGHAN: (A) SMITH HAD HONORED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO HONOR HIS COMMITMENTS; (B) THE ANC AND THESMITH REGIME SHOULD KEEP TALKING; AND (C) OUTSIDERS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE.

F) GIBBS MEETING - EMERY CONFIRMED TO ME THAT CALLAGHAN HAD CHATTED WITH RHODESIAN MINORITY LEADER TIMOTHY GIBBS DURING A "GARDEN STROLL." SHE SAID THAT GIBBS HAD REQUESTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET CALLAGHAN IN BOTSWANA. EMERY DESCRIBED GIBBS AS A NICE YOUNG MAN, A PATRIOTIC RHODESIAN WITH A PATERNALISTIC ATTITUDE. EMERY SAID GIBBS' MAIN POINT TO CALLAGHAN WAS THAT HIS PARTY AND THE TRIBAL CHIEFS IN RHODESIA SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT ANY CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS.

G) EEC MEAT BAN - MINISTER OF STATE MOGWE BORE DOWN HARD ON CALLAGHAN REGARDING THE EEC BEEF BAN WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE JULY OF LAST YEAR. EMERY SAID CALLAGHAN WAS WELL BRIEFED ON THIS ISSUE AND TOLD HIS BOTSWANA HOST THAT HE WOULD TAKE THE MATTER UP AT THE NEXT EC COUNCIL MEETING WITH VIEW GETTING EXEMPTION FOR BOTSWANA.

BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, APARTHEID, MINISTERIAL VISITS, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GABORO00031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750006-0618
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750174/aaaacmmy.tel
Line Count: 203
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GABORONE 0023
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S VISIT TO BOTSWANA
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, SF, BC, ZA, (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006